(b) if so, the details of the same during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for preventing such damage to forests and property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However there are instances of ground fire affecting flora, fauna and regeneration in particular.

(c) Central assistance is being provided to the States and Union Territories under the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme for prevention and control of forest fires. The funds are provided for creation and maintenance of fire lines, engaging of fire watchers during the fire season, construction of fire watch towers, construction of water harvesting structures, purchasing of field vehicles, assistance to village forest committees, training, awareness and publicity.

Steps to control the pollution in Metro cities

505. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the necessary steps taken by Government with regard to control the pollution in the metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) whether environmental awareness programme is being implemented by Government in these cities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Government has taken various steps to control pollution in metropolitan cities, which include the following:—

— Notification of general and source specific emission and effluent standards.

— Enforcement of auto exhaust emission standards for new vehicles at manufacturing stage.

— Improved fuel quality.

— Use of beneficiated coal in the thermal power stations.

— Regular monitoring for compliance of environmental standards.

— Setting up of sewage treatment plants to prevent disposal of untreated/partially treated sewage into water bodies. Under National River Action Plan (NRAP), 21 metro cities have been included for providing interception, diversion and treatment of Municipal waste water.

— City specific Action Plans to control pollution from various sources have been prepared for the mega cities of the country, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, which are at the different stages of implementation.

— Action Plans have also been formulated for controlling air pollution, which includes identification of polluting sources, assessment of pollution load, and control of pollution from each of these sources.

— Implementation of Charter on Corporate Responsibility for environmental protection in respect of 17 categories of industries.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests has sponsored number of training and awareness programmes for prevention and abatement of pollution. The awareness programme is implemented through electronic and print media, including television, radio, newspapers, magazines and pamphlets. Various training programmes, workshops and exhibitions are also organised in co-ordination with the Non-Governmental Organisations in this regard.

Disappearance of tigers from Sariska Reserve

506. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-India expert team survey, the Sariska Reserve does not have any sign of the presence of tigers;